

## Message Text

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ACTION L-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 INR-05 CIAE-00 SCA-01 /028 W  
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P 141630Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0185

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1945

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR PGOV CS

SUBJECT: VESCO CASE - EXTRADITION LAW

REF: (A) STATE 110168

(B) SAN JOSE 1923

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER AFTERNOON  
MAY 13, I SPOKE TO HIM ALONG LINES INDICATED PARAGRAPH  
FOUR REFTEL (A).

2. ODUBER RECONFIRMED HIS WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED AS  
HE HAD INDICATED EARLIER. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT NOT  
MUCH WORK HAD BEEN DONE IN PREPARING THE REVISIONS. IN  
ANY CASE, HE THOUGHT IT BEST IF THE CONSULTATIONS COULD  
BE HELD BEFORE GOVERNMENT-PROPOSED REVISIONS ARE READY SO  
THAT USG VIEWS COULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PREPARING  
REVISIONS. ODUBER PROMISED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ATTORNEY  
GENERAL AND LET ME KNOW HOW SOON HE WOULD BE ABLE TO  
SEND SOMEONE TO U.S. FOR DISCUSSIONS. (MY IMPRESSION IS  
THAT THIS MAY BE VERY SOON, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK.)  
HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF HIS EMMISSARY BEING THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL HIMSELF, A SPECIAL CONFIDANT, OR THE MEMBER OF THE  
ASSEMBLY WHO HAS BEEN WORKING MOST CLOSELY WITH DRAFTS OF  
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE VESCO LAW.

3. ODUBER SAID HE THOUGHT IT USEFUL FOR THE U.S. TO  
EXAMINE CLOSELY THE BILL THAT IS PRESENTLY IN ASSEMBLY FOR  
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REVISING THE LAW. HE HAS BEEN GIVEN CONFLICTING OPINIONS ON

WHETHER THE REVISIONS WOULD BE MORE FAVORABLE TO VESCO OR WHETHER THEY WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO EXTRADITE AND HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE U.S. OPINION IN THIS REGARD. (TO THE BEST OF EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS STILL SAME BILL REPORTED SAN JOSE 3913 AND COMMENTED ON IN STATE 226374 OF OCTOBER 15, 1974.) BASED ON U.S. OPINION, HE COULD THEN DECIDE WHETHER TO WORK WITH PENDING BILL (WHICH MAY BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO AMEND FURTHER) OR WHETHER TO PRESENT COMPLETELY NEW PROPOSAL.

4. ODUBER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HE WOULD KEEP THE PENDING BILLS FROM COMING UP FOR CONSIDERATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HE WAS READY TO DEAL WITH THEM.

5. WITH REFERENCE PARA ONE REFTEL (A), ODUBER REAFFIRMED FACIO'S ASSURANCES TO ME THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY MEMORANDUM ON THE EXISTING LAW REPRESENTS VIEWS OF ENTIRE GOVERNMENT.

6. WITH REFERENCE PARA 3(C) REFTEL (A), IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE MAY NEED LOCAL COUNSEL VERY SOON TO HELP US AND DEPARTMENT EVALUATE NOT ONLY EXISTING LAW BUT ALSO BILL PENDING IN ASSEMBLY AND ANY REVISIONS WHICH ODUBER MAY PROPOSE (PARA 2 AND 3 ABOVE). I REQUEST THIS BE AUTHORIZED.

7. WILL ADVISE AS SOON AS I HEAR FROM ODUBER AGAIN.  
TODMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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